

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A linear motor device, comprising:
an inner yoke;
an outer yoke located outside said inner yoke;
a coil-wound body and a movable magnet portion for driving a piston
reciprocating in a cylinder, both located between said inner yoke and said outer yoke;
first and second clamping members for ~~clamping~~ holding said outer yoke; and
a spacer for coupling said first and second clamping members at a given
spacing, said spacer being positioned between receiving portions respectively included
in said first and second clamping members.

said first clamping member being provided with a support portion supporting a
spring for pushing said piston, and
said second clamping member being fixed directly or indirectly to said cylinder.

2. (Currently Amended) The linear motor device according to claim 1, wherein
said spacer has axial end faces and smaller-diameter portions protruding from
said axial end faces at both ends, and
said respective receiving portions of said first and second clamping members
have ~~first and second receiving portions having~~ concave portions for receiving the
smaller-diameter portions of said spacer and support surfaces for supporting said axial
end faces of said spacer.

3. (Previously Presented) The linear motor device according to claim 1, wherein
said outer yoke is made of a plurality of outer yoke blocks arranged in a
circumferential direction of said first and second clamping members, the outer yoke
blocks being separated in a longitudinal direction of said spacer, and
said outer yoke blocks are bonded to said first and second clamping members
with welded portions interposed therebetween.

4. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a linear motor device, comprising the steps of:

fixing a first outer yoke block and a second outer yoke block to a first clamping member and a second clamping member, respectively, by ultrasonic welding;

while said first and second outer yoke blocks are fixed to said first and second clamping members, coupling said first and second clamping members together by ultrasonic welding with a spacer interposed therebetween,;

fixing said first and second outer yoke blocks to each other.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a linear motor device according to claim 4, wherein said first and second clamping members are coupled together with a gap provided between said first and second outer yoke blocks.

6. (Original) A linear compressor comprising the linear motor device recited in claim 1.

7. (Currently Amended) A linear compressor, comprising:

a cylinder provided in a casing;

a piston reciprocating in said cylinder;

a linear motor device provided in an outer periphery of said cylinder to drive said piston; and

a spring for pushing said piston,

said linear motor device having an inner yoke, an outer yoke located outside said inner yoke, a coil-wound body and a movable magnet portion located between said inner yoke and said outer yoke, first and second clamping members for clamping holding said outer yoke, a spacer for coupling said first and second clamping members at a given spacing, said spacer being positioned between receiving portions respectively included in said first and second clamping members, and a support portion for supporting said spring,

said first clamping member being provided with said support portion, and
said second clamping member being mounted to said cylinder.

8. (Currently Amended) A Stirling engine, comprising:
- a cylinder provided in a casing;
 - a piston and a displacer reciprocating in said cylinder;
 - a linear motor device provided in an outer periphery of said cylinder for allowing said piston to reciprocate in said cylinder; and
 - a spring for pushing the displacer,
- said linear motor device having an inner yoke, an outer yoke located outside said inner yoke, a coil-wound body and a movable magnet portion located between said inner yoke and said outer yoke, first and second clamping members for ~~clamping~~ holding said outer yoke, a spacer for coupling said first and second clamping members at a given spacing, said spacer being positioned between receiving portions respectively included in said first and second clamping members, and a support portion for supporting said spring,
- said first clamping member being provided with said support portion, and
 - said second clamping member being mounted to said cylinder.